

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:** This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the instant patent application.

**Listing of claims:**

1. (Previously presented) A recombinant viral vector essentially comprising  
tTA-intron<sup>1</sup>-TK<sup>+</sup>-TetO<sub>7</sub>-CMV<sup>+</sup>-intron<sup>2</sup>-transgene  
in which  
TetO<sub>7</sub> is the heptamerized tetracycline operator  
TK<sup>+</sup> is the minimal thymidine kinase promoter  
tTA is a nucleic acid sequence which encodes a fusion protein from the repressor protein  
inducible by tetracycline and the transcriptional activation domain of the Herpes  
simplex virus VP16,  
CMV<sup>+</sup> is the minimal cytomegalovirus promoter and  
Transgene is a nucleic acid sequence which codes for a non-viral protein  
Intron<sup>1</sup> is any desired non-encoding nucleic acid sequence with a length of O to  
approximately 1000 bp and  
Intron<sup>2</sup> is any desired non-encoding nucleic acid sequence with a length of O to  
approximately 1000 bp, wherein the vector is an adenovirus.
2. (previously presented) A vector according to claim 1 wherein the insert is  
inserted into the viral vector genome in reverse orientation.
3. (previously presented) A vector according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the positions  
of tTA and transgene are inverted in the insert.
4. (currently amended) A vector according to ~~claims 1 to 3~~ claim 3 wherein the insert  
contains an additional lac repressor (lacR) between "CMV<sup>+</sup>" and "intron<sup>2</sup>" or between "intron<sup>2</sup>"  
and "transgene".
5. (currently amended) A vector according to ~~claims 1 to 4~~ claim 4 wherein the  
transgene is a nucleic acid sequence encoding a fluorescence protein, luciferase, interleukin-12  
(IL-12), interleukin-18 (IL-18), interleukin-2 (IL-2), tumor necrosis factor  $\alpha$  (TNF- $\alpha$ ) or  
interferon- $\gamma$  (IFN- $\gamma$ ).

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6. (previously presented) A vector according to claim 5 wherein IL-12 is a single chain interleukin-12.

7. (canceled)

8. (currently amended) A vector according to ~~claims 1 to 6~~ claim 6 wherein the insert is cloned into the E1 and/or the E3 region of a recombinant adenovirus.

9. (currently amended) A vector according to ~~claims 1 to 6 or claim 8~~ claim 8 wherein it is obtainable by homologous recombination of a viral plasmid and an expression plasmid with the nucleic acid sequence designated SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:3.

10. (previously presented) An expression plasmid with the nucleic acid sequence designated SEQ ID NO:4 or SEQ ID NO:5.

11. (currently amended) Production of a vector according to ~~claims 1 to 9~~ claim 9, comprising use of a plasmid according to claim 10.

12. (currently amended) In vitro gene expression in eukaryotic cell lines, comprising use of a vector according to ~~claims 1 to 9~~ claim 9.

13.-18. (Canceled)